

**Nino Abakelia** – Associate Professor at the faculty of art and sciences ;( cultural studies) Scientific researcher at the University Research Institute of comparative literature

Short CV

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In 1973 graduated Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, the faculty of west European languages and literature. In 1987 – defended the candidate thesis: *Myth and Ritual in Western Georgia* at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia, Yerevan. In 1997 – defended the doctoral thesis: *Symbol and Ritual in Georgian Culture* at the archaeological Center of the Academy of sciences of Georgia. Since 2006 until now is an Associated professor at Ilia State University. During 1974 -2010 worked at Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of History and ethnology. During 1993-2005 was the visiting professor at Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. In 2009 (for Hilary term) has accepted a place to conduct research in the chosen field of anthropology at the University of Oxford and presented the findings to a wide audience of scholars (at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology and International Gender Studies Centre. Department of International Development). During 2010-13 participated in a RESET-project funded by the Open Society Foundation on Anthropological Approaches to Religion and Secularism. She is the author of more than 90 articles and among them Scientific monographs and three collective monographs on religion.

Scientific interests / research interests are: Myth and ritual relation, Symbol in culture, culture as a text, Collective memory and cultural identity, construction of sacred spaces, Sacred and secular, folk festival, religious symbolism and social behavior, elitism, urban anthropology.